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Att: Ticket No. 11714-P02  
Christopher Evans, et al.

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Wattts  
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Pillgel  
(m.E.)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Christopher Evans, et al. Exam. M. Aryanpour  
Serial No. 09/493,871 ✓ Group Art Unit: 3711  
Filed: January 28, 2000  
For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SOCCER TRAINING AND PRACTICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Box Responses - Fee

RESPONSE A

Sir:

Responsive to the action dated 13 February 2001 (one month extension request filed herewith) please amend the application as follows:

CLAIMS

In claim 1 delete "and" and in line 9 and add at the end:

- (d) an elastic tether line; and  
(e) means for securing the soccer ball in a minimally interfering way with kicking, the tether being tied at its ends to, and extending between, the ring and said means for securing. --

A copy of claim 1 as so amended appears at Appendix A hereto.

Please add claims 5 and 6 as follows (additional copy at Appendix A):

-- 5. Apparatus for holding a ball for movement about an anchor position and retry comprising:

- (a) means for securing the ball,
- (b) means for establishing a ground level anchor,
- (c) flexible tethering means enabling movement of the ball from a position at or spaced from the anchor to another position spaced from the anchor and automatic retrieval of the ball, all within a zone of variable boundary depending on external moving force applied to the ball and through it to the flexible tethering means,

the apparatus as a whole constructed and arranged to provide a clear field for ball movement over the anchor and in a surrounding zone and with multiple degrees of freedom of movement to enable simulation of usual play mode of usage of the ball.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the ball is secured in a net, the tethering means is

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